

Attn: Sara Clarke, Secretary

Subject: Broadband expansion in the Massachusetts towns of Hardwick, Petersham, and Montague

Dear Ms. Clarke,

I would like to thank Karen Charles Peterson for attending the public meeting regarding the Comcast and Matrix proposals on May 24, 2016. We really appreciate her taking the time to hear our concerns.

I live on Dry Hill Road in Montague which would remain unserved under Comcast's proposal. Looking at the map of Montague Comcast provided in its proposal, it is blatantly obvious that Comcast would mainly expand service to the more densely populated, unserved areas of the town with easier builds which would simply equal profit for them. I have a hard time believing this was the point of this broadband initiative. If these grant subsidies are not enough incentive to encourage Comcast to provide broadband service to Dry Hill Road and many others now, the only conclusion that can be reached is that these areas will never receive service.

As I stated at the meeting, broadband access is no longer a luxury it is a necessity. Internet access is now needed for many aspects of employment and education. Our area is without cell service and without the prospect of broadband access, our area will be brutally underserved which will limit economic and educational possibilities.

On another note, even to a layperson, it appears that MBI's proposal to go with Comcast over Matrix is incredibly flawed and biased. I find it incredibly hard to believe that the MBI proposal could find nothing positive about Matrix's proposal and nothing negative about Comcast's. I believe that an investigation needs to be done on this. The Matrix representative stated in his remarks that the Matrix company has worked on several projects yet it appears that references from only one of their projects (Leverett) was used in the MBI summary. I would like to know if any effort was made to contact any other Matrix clients for references.

Hardwick and Montague officials have done a lot of research and have worked very hard on a report which expresses a strong preference to contract with Matrix Design Group for multiple reasons. I ask the Department of Telecommunications and Cable to follow their recommendation.

Thank you.

Victoria Rupp

Montague, MA